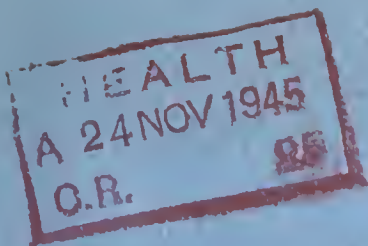


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COUNCILLOR A. HOLLAND, J.P.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR 1944.

W. S. HAYDOCK, B.A., M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

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Vice-Chairman : Councillor Rev. W. METCALFE

„ H. MAKIN, J.P.

„ H. JEBB,

W. OPENSHAW.

., C. P. PARTRIDGE,

„ J. PEARSON,

„ H. SMETHURST,

„ J. E. SWEET,

The MAYOR and DEPUTY-MAYOR (ex-officio)

000000000000000000000000


Councillor Mrs. F. LOMAX, J.P.,

Rev. W. METCALFE.

Mrs. H. MAKIN,

Mrs. R. BOWKER,

Mrs. A. HOLLAND.



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Officers of the Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health :

W. STANLEY HAYDOCK, B.A., M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

GEORGE YATES, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

RAYMOND B. ANDERSON, A.R.S.I., A.I.S.E.

Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Resigned June, 1945.

Cleansing Superintendent :

H. FLETCHER.

Health Visitors :

Miss E. MORAN, Cert. Midwife, S.R.N., Health Visitors' Certificate.

Miss E. HALL, Cert. Midwife, S.R.N., Health Visitors' Certificate.

Mrs. R. FRYER, Cert. Midwife, S.R.N., Health Visitors' Certificate. Appointed 3rd June, 1940. Resigned September, 1944.

Miss M. WILD, Cert. Midwife, S.R.N., Health Visitors' Certificate. Appointed April, 1945.

Matron, Bealey Maternity Home :

Miss E. HALL, S.R.N., Cert. Midwife.

Dental Surgeon, Maternity and Child Welfare :

Mrs. M. SIBSON, L.D.S.

Clerk :

Miss A. FORREST.

TOWN HALL,

RADCLIFFE.

September, 1945.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the
Borough of Radcliffe.*

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1944.

The health of the population generally is satisfactory. The number of births is the highest recorded since 1920, and exceeds the deaths by 138.

Scarlet Fever has again been prevalent: it did not at any time assume epidemic proportions, and the cases were distributed fairly evenly throughout the town.

Diphtheria notifications are again low, and the immunisations done during the past six years have undoubtedly contributed towards this satisfactory state of affairs.

The housing problem is still acute. Many houses are in such a state that satisfactory repairs are impossible, and others are rapidly deteriorating. There is a long list of applicants for Council houses. In addition to those whose homes are structurally unsound, there are many parents with two or more children who are no longer content to live in a four-roomed cottage without a bath and lacking many of the other conveniences found in houses belonging to the Local Authority.

The admissions to the Bealey Maternity Home were the highest yet recorded, and the attendances at the Welfare Centres are still almost up to pre-war levels.

In submitting this report, I take the opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Council in general, and particularly to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, for their support and encouragement.

I also desire to record my appreciation of the good work done by the members of the staff of the Health Department.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. S. HAYDOCK.

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A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	4,915.
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population, 1944	25,380
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to Rate Book.....	8,948
Rateable value	£180,893
Sum represented by a penny rate	£710

In peace time many married women worked in the factories, and on this account less adjustment was needed in the daily routine of home life than in many towns where the employment of women was less general before the war. Other difficulties—rationing, queues, etc.—arose, and housewives had a rough time, and great credit is due to those mothers who have carried on a full-time or part-time war job as well as attended to the needs of their family. The children certainly have not suffered, and their physical condition is, I think, quite as good as that of the children in 1939.

There was a rise in the Birth Rate in Radcliffe for two or three years after the Great War of 1914-18, but afterwards the rate fell to much below the previous average, and for several years prior to 1939 the number of births and deaths was about equal. During the present war there has been an increase and, as I have already stated, in 1944 the births notified was the highest recorded since 1920.

The Infant Mortality rate is low ; in 1943 it was rather high. Dealing as we do with comparatively small numbers, it is necessary to take an average over a period of years to smooth out the inequalities and chance yearly variations in order to get a true concept of the relation of infant deaths to births. When this is done it will be seen that our figures compare favourably with other towns similarly situated.

Vital Statistics.**Live Births.**

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	239	225	464
Illegitimate	11	8	19
	<hr/> 250	<hr/> 233	<hr/> 483

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. 19.0

Still Births 8 7 15

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births 30.1

Deaths 169 176 345

Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population.. 13.6

Deaths from puerperal causes :—	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	—
Other Maternal Causes	2	4.02

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births 33.1

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 32.3

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.. 52.6

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	54
„ Measles (all ages)	Nil
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2

Deaths according to Wards :—

	Males	Females	Total
Ainsworth	23	16	39
Black Lane	40	58	98
Radcliffe Bridge ..	31	28	59
Radcliffe Hall	36	27	63
Stand Lane	39	47	86
	<hr/> 169	<hr/> 176	<hr/> 345

Mean Rates for the past 30 years :—

Mean Rate of 5 years	Per 1000 of Population				Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 Live Births	Rate of Death under 1 year to 1000 Births
	Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from Tuber- culosis of Res- piratory System	Death Rate from Cancer		
1915 to 1919....	15.2	16.6	0.97	not	4.1	113
1920 to 1924....	17.9	13.4	0.66	available	3.5	94
1925 to 1929....	13.4	13.3	0.56	„	4.9	60
1930 to 1934....	13.2	13.1	0.66	1.53	2.96	51
1935 to 1939....	12.5	13.7	0.42	1.89	4.7	58.7
1940 to 1944....	15.6	14.4	0.34	1.93	2.9	51.7
1944.....	19.0	13.6	0.35	2.12	4.1	33.1

The causes of death are as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping Cough	2
Diphtheria	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9
Influenza	4
Acute Infant Encephalitis	2
Cancer	54
Diabetes	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	45
Heart Disease	100
Other Circulatory Diseases	13
Bronchitis	21
Pneumonia	9
Other Respiratory Diseases	2
Peptic Ulcer	1
Diarrhoea	2
Appendicitis.....	4
Other Digestive Diseases	3
Nephritis	9
Maternal Deaths	2
Premature Birth	5
Other Infant Deaths	8
Suicide	5
Road Traffic Accidents	1
Other Violent Causes	6
All Other Causes	34

345

B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(1) Laboratory Facilities.

No change has taken place in the arrangements for the examination of clinical material, milk, etc.

The number of specimens examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and the results, are as follows:—

	Number.	Positive.	Negative.
Swabs from suspected Diphtheria			
cases and contacts	33	4	29
Milk for presence of Tuberculosis...	12	2	10
Other specimens... ..	2	—	2

In addition 12 samples of milk were tested (Methylene Blue test), and 2 were found to be not satisfactory.

(2) Ambulance Facilities.

Three motor ambulances and a car for sitting cases are maintained by the Local Authority. They are housed at Close Park, and during the year 4,435 calls were received, including 128 accident cases and 173 for patients admitted to or discharged from the Bealey Maternity Home.

The Bury and District Joint Hospital Board have provided two motor ambulances for the removal of infectious cases. The ambulances are kept at the Florence Nightingale Hospital.

(3) Nursing in the Home.

(i) The Radcliffe and District Sick Nursing Association provides trained nursing in the home.

497 patients were attended at their homes, and 7,528 visits were paid by the Nurses.

(ii) The Ainsworth and Harwood District Nursing Association maintains a Queen's Nurse for the northern portion of the district, and, in addition to ordinary nursing, she attends midwifery cases in this area.

In 1944 the nurse paid 2,417 visits and nursed 101 cases: 37 medical, 45 surgical, 18 midwifery and 1 maternity.

Both associations are carried on by voluntary subscriptions, and the Local Authority makes a contribution to each annually.

(4) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The attendances at Close Park and Ainsworth are still satisfactory, and again I express my thanks to the ladies of the voluntary Committees for their willing help and co-operation, especially Mrs. Makin and Mrs. Metcalfe, the Hon. Secretaries of the Radcliffe and Ainsworth Voluntary Committees.

The following table shows the amount of work carried on at the Welfare Centres:—

	New Cases		Total Attendances			Average Attendance per Session
	Children	Expectant Mothers	Under 12 Months	Over 12 Months	Expectant Mothers	
Close Park..	308	275	3474	1000	1060	48.1
Ainsworth ..	53	7	521	364	17	37.6

(5) Hospitals.

The number of patients admitted to the Bealey Maternity Home is the largest in any one year since the home was first opened in 1926. Even so, a number of applications had to be refused, and at times it was impossible to avoid congestion and overcrowding. The staff, both nursing and domestic, have worked hard, and unfortunately it is not at present possible for the full benefits of the shorter working week of 48 hours, recommended in the Rushcliffe Report, to be granted to the nurses. Our permitted staff now is four trained midwives, including the Matron (pre-war we employed five midwives, with an extra temporary nurse in the summer for holiday relief work). During the summer, when holidays are taken, there are now only three midwives available, and at least one of them must always be on duty.

I hope that more nurses will soon be available, and that we may then be able to return to our pre-war establishment.

The following table shows the number of admissions to the Home in 1944:—

	Full Fee	Reduced Fee	Total
Radcliffe	156	34	190
Outside Areas	69	4	73
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	225	38	263
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

(6) Midwifery and Maternity Services.

The two municipal midwives attended 122 cases, either in the capacity of midwife or maternity nurse, and other midwives attended 38 patients.

The remainder of the births took place in the Bealey Maternity Home and in hospitals in Manchester, Bury and other neighbouring towns.

Radcliffe is not a Local Supervisory Authority and the Municipal Midwives do not come under our jurisdiction, but there is very close co-operation between them and the staff of the M. and C.W. Services. An ante-natal clinic, which they attend, is held once a month to examine and supervise their patients, and they are very helpful in persuading and bringing with them expectant mothers to these special clinics.

Another session is held each month for patients awaiting admission to the Bealey Maternity Home.

Practically every expectant mother has ante-natal care, either by her own doctor or at the clinic, and the arrangements which have been in force since 1931, for the examination of patients with complications and abnormalities by a consultant obstetrician have been continued.

54 patients were referred by doctors or from the ante-natal clinic to consultants, and most of these were subsequently admitted to St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, or Bury Infirmary, for their confinement.

During the year 127 new patients were treated at the Dental Clinic for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and the total attendance was 249.

(7) Health Visitors.

The number of home visits paid by the Health Visitors was as follows:—

First Visits to Infants	427
Total Visits to Infants under 12 months ..	616
Total Visits to Infants over 12 months ..	347
Ante-Natal—first visits	15
Ante-Natal—total visits	19

During home visiting and attendance at the clinics, attention is paid to cleanliness and infestation with vermin. As the Health Visitors are also School Nurses the homes where trouble may be expected are known in many cases, but even so, very little uncleanliness is found amongst pre-school children.

Advice and printed leaflets, giving instructions how to deal with lice, are given when necessary, and steel combs can be purchased at cost price or in necessitous cases they are loaned free of charge.

(8) Blindness.

I examined 29 local applicants for pensions under the Blind Persons Acts during the year, at the request of the County Medical Officer of Health.

17 were blind, 5 not blind, and 6 were referred for further examination.

C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**Water Supply.**

The water supply for the greater part of the area is under the control of the Irwell Valley Water Board, and is derived from upland surface water from watersheds, or from deep wells which are well protected, so that possibilities of contamination are small. Ainsworth is supplied from the Bolton Corporation Water Board.

The supplies generally have been satisfactory in quality and quantity. Complaints are received from time to time of sediment in the water, and this is largely due to incrustation which has taken place in the main supply pipes, some of which have been in service for many years. It has not been possible during the past four or five years to flush the mains as frequently as in the pre-war period.

Bacteriological samples have been taken regularly, and these have all been satisfactory.

The water from the moorland gathering grounds is acid in character, and the danger due to plumbo solvent action is dealt with by the addition of lime where necessary and by the insistence of the Board on pipes used for domestic purposes being tin lined. Owing to the closing down of the Board's laboratory progress has been held up in the scheme for treating the water.

Chloramine is added at the source, and every dwelling-house in the town is supplied from public mains direct to the houses.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The following tabular summary of the work of the Sanitary Department has been prepared by the Sanitary Inspector in accordance with Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926 :—

(a) Number of inspections made during the year :—

Inspection of houses, etc., including re-inspections...	591
Number of cases of infectious diseases reported upon	222
„ houses disinfected	298
„ drains tested (by smoke)	14
„ samples of milk obtained for bacterio- logical examination	12
„ houses demolished	8

(b) Number of Notices served :—

(1) Informal Notices	198
(2) Statutory Notices	2

(c) Compliance with Statutory Notices :—

All the Statutory Notices were complied with.

34 houses were found to be infested with bugs and were suitably dealt with.

The preparations used were Zaldecide, Vermicine, Furmex and, in three houses, H.C.N. gas. All the work was carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

The table shows the closet and ashpit accommodation at the end of 1920, also at the end of each of the past five years, and demonstrates the conversions and additions made since the scheme came into operation in October, 1921.

There is little change in these figures, as very few conversions have been carried out since 1939.

Financial assistance has been given for the conversion of privies to fresh water closets since 1921, and a corresponding grant was sanctioned in May, 1938, for the conversion of waste water closets. All the privies and pail closets that were within access to sewers and the main water supply had been dealt with before the outbreak of war, and steady progress was being made with the waste water closets when war brought this work to a standstill.

	*1920	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Privies	1883	180	180	180	180	180
Pail Closets	260	241	241	241	241	241
Fresh Water Closets	2635	8263	8275	8355	8357	8359
Waste Water Closets	1642	1175	1172	1170	1168	1166
Wet Ashpits	1011	122	122	122	122	122
Dry Ashpits	909	294	294	294	294	294
Ashbins	1849	8204	8213	8291	8291	8291

* The figures for 1920 do not include the districts of Outwood and Ainsworth, which were added to the Borough in 1933.

D.—HOUSING.

Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total, including numbers given separately under (b) :—

- (i) By the Local Authority Nil.
- (ii) By other Local Authorities Nil.
- (iii) By other bodies and persons Nil.

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—

- (i) By the Local Authority Nil.
- (ii) By other bodies or persons Nil.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

- (i) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 356
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 591
- (ii) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 151
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 203
- (iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 36
- (iv) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 159

2. Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority or their Officers 149
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—
 - (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
 - (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs —
 - (ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
 - (a) By owners —
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners —

The unavoidable interruption of the demolition of unfit houses programme is now resulting in many people living under conditions which, in normal times, would not be tolerated. In addition, the neglect of normal repairs, due to shortage of labour and materials, is causing much worry to the Health Department. In spite of the bad condition of many houses there is no dearth of tenants. This leads to much dissatisfaction and is one of the reasons for such a great number of applications for Council houses. Many of the better-class houses, when they become vacant, are offered for sale, due to the good prices obtainable, thus limiting the number of houses available for those who can only afford to pay a rental.

It is a laudable object to desire to live in a better house. This, coupled with the fact that many of the men in the Forces have been married during the last six years and are desirous of obtaining a home of their own on demobilisation, intensifies the problem.

E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The war-time measure of centralised killing has resulted in the cessation of the use of the local slaughter-houses, all the meat coming from Bury. There is, however, constant supervision over milk, meat and other foods and, generally speaking, these are satisfactory.

The following table gives the amount of food examined and dealt with under the Ministry of Food's Salvage Scheme :—

Tins of food	1,375
Packets of food	602
Jars of food	20
Eggs	18
Bulk food	1,562-lbs.

Rodent Control.

A rodent operative was engaged in March and commenced on the survey called for by the Government. Active operations were commenced after the survey had been completed, and the following is a summary of the work done :—

467 visits paid to premises.

510 manholes on the sewers treated.

1,196 oz. of poison bait taken, giving a kill of approximately
3,366 rats.

Disinfection.

The number of houses disinfected is given in a previous table. The Steam Disinfector at the Sewage Works has been of great advantage, and the following articles were treated :—

Beds or mattresses	140
Pillows	54
Blankets and sheets	421
Miscellaneous articles	41
<hr/>	
Total	656
<hr/>	

F.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever was prevalent during the whole year. The cases were evenly distributed throughout the town, and the disease, which was of a mild type, did not at any time assume epidemic proportions.

The anticipated epidemic of measles did not begin till the last fortnight in December, whereas in 1942 the epidemic was at its height from August to October.

The incidence of other infectious diseases was light.

The diagnosis of diphtheria was confirmed in 10 cases. None of these had been immunised.

There was less demand for immunisation than in the previous year. Eight sessions were held, and 377 children received two doses of A.P.T. Of these 224 were pre-school and 153 school children. At the end of the year approximately 34 per cent. of the pre-school and 70 per cent. of school children had been immunised.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified in 1944 and for the preceding four years :—

Disease	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Scarlet Fever	30	23	37	171	174
Diphtheria	25	32	24	11	10
Typhoid Group	2	1	—	—	—
Measles	184	121	679	41	47
Whooping Cough.....	31	168	13	100	75
Pneumonia	45	33	34	49	36
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	2	5	2	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	7	3	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1	2	1	1
Erysipelas	3	9	15	10	11
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	20	12	18	18	19
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis....	9	8	12	10	8

INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACCORDING TO WARDS.

Disease	Ains- worth	Black Lane	Radcliffe Bridge	Radcliffe Hall	Stand Lane	Total
Scarlet Fever	13	52	24	34	51	174
Diphtheria	—	2	1	2	5	10
Measles	7	8	8	6	18	47
Whooping Cough	11	12	18	4	30	75
Pneumonia	3	15	8	4	6	36
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	1	1
Erysipelas	1	3	2	1	4	11
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	4	5	3	3	4	19
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1	2	2	1	8

41	99	66	56	120	382
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Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years.								
0-1 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1-5 .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
5-10 .....	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
10-15 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15-20 .....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
20-25	2	2	..	1	1	3	..	..
25-35	4	3	..	..	..	2	..	..
35-45	4	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
45-55 .....	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	..
55-65	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
65 and upwards ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
	12	7	3	5	4	5	..	..
	19		8		9		..	
	27				9			

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1944

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED														Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to District		
	Total Cases at all Ages	Years								Total Deaths	Total Cases Removed to Hospital						
		Un-der 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20			20-25	25-35	35-45		45-65	65 and over
Smallpox	174	..	1	2	9	15	79	54	..	3	8	..	3	..	..	..	1
Scarlet Fever	10	..	..	2	1	2	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid) ..	47	2	4	9	6	5	18	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles, exclud'g German Measles	75	13	6	13	7	17	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	36	7	..	1	2	1	7	..	1	3	6	2	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Pneumonia .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Polio-Encephalitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	5	..	..	..	3	..
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	355	23	11	27	25	40	128	54	6	14	10	11	6	13	160	2	

REPORT OF THE TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER.

During the year 1944, 27 notifications of patients suffering from Tuberculosis were received. Of these, 19 were pulmonary and 8 non-pulmonary.

Of the pulmonary notifications, 9 had positive sputum, 4 had negative sputum, 4 had no sputum for examination, and in 2 cases the sputum was either absent or not examined (if any).

The non-pulmonary cases are classified as follows :—

Hip	1	Abdomen	1
Knee	1	Neck Glands	5

Seven of the notified cases died during the year.

Treatment was granted to 23 of the cases. Of these 13 were sent to Sanatoria or Pulmonary Hospital, 2 to Orthopædic Hospital, and 2 to General Hospital. The remaining 6 cases were under dispensary supervision only.

There were 4 non-applicants. The reasons for not applying were as follows :—

Died	2
Refused	1
Already on books	1

RAD. PTG. CO.
